(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken in this regard; and

(c) the remedial measures proposed to streamline the procedure in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) The Medical Council of India (MCI) carries out inspection of medical colleges as per provisions of Indian Medical Council Act, 1956 and Regulations made thereunder. Representations have been received against MCI in the matter of inspection and its recommendations in regard to grant of permission/recognition of degree. In some cases it has been stated that permission/recognition has been given despite lack of faculty and there are other cases where it has been stated that though the faculty meets the requirements, they are not accepted by MCI for grant of permission/recognition. The Central Government, however, takes decisions on the recommendations of the MCI after obtaining necessary clarifications/inputs from MCI/institutions and if necessary, getting it verified through its team of experts.

In order to ensure that the teachers are submitting correct documents in regard to their qualifications and experience and are not employed in more than one institution, the MCI has introduced a system of Smart I.D. Card for the faculty in which important details like academic qualifications, registration particulars and teaching experience alongwith a thumb print and signature of teacher are embedded in chip of the Card itself. The introduction of this system is likely to ensure correct strength of faculty and their qualifications in their institutions.

Appeal of Health Minister to a famous film personality

3481. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the appeal made by him on smoking to a famous film actor has brought in desire letter;

(b) whether there was any correspondence between him and the actor;

(c) whether he proposes to make any further personalised appeals to more film personalities or to any other rich and famous personalities in the field of art, literature, sports etc. in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) Studies suggest that tobacco is a menacing health hazard. Robust IEC activities have been undertaken to disseminate the ill effects of tobacco products. As a part of this campaign renowned personalities including film actors have been advised to desist from smoking in public and in movie since evidence based studies exhibit a strong linkage between film personalities and youth behaviour with youth admitting that they copy smoking styles of different characters/actors in the movies. In fact health message from famous film personalities are a part of the IEC campaign.

It is proposed to sustain these IEC activities in future too as a public health measure.